

# **CHARTER FOR THE NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE**

## **I. Definition, Mission, and Purpose**

**1. Definition, Mission and Objectives.** The National Technology Alliance (NTA) is a United States (U.S.) Government program. The mission of the NTA is to influence commercial and dual use technology development with an emphasis on meeting national security and defense technology needs. This mission will be accomplished through the following objectives:

a. Acquire knowledge of government operational user needs by conducting technology needs assessment and analysis;

b. Effect rapid discovery, development, and application of commercial technology solutions that are critical to the government operational users;

c. Leverage commercially developed technology and solutions to government technology needs by establishing and maintaining mutually supportive relationships with commercial industries; and

d. Provide a forum for the full exchange of government technology needs, solutions, and experimentation with ready access to commercial assistance.

**2. Purpose.** The NTA's purpose is to discover, initiate, or accelerate the optimum ("best of class") commercially available solutions to meet U.S. Government technology needs.

## **II. Organization**

**1. NTA Executive Agent.** The National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) shall serve as the Executive Agent of the NTA on behalf of the U.S. Government and through the Director, NIMA. NIMA shall establish an NTA Program Office to provide management and administrative support for the NTA that meets the needs of the participating government agencies.

## **2. NTA Program Office.**

a. The NTA Program Office shall execute the day-to-day management and operation of the NTA on behalf of the Executive Agent and the NTA Executive Board (NEB). The Program Office shall be staffed by NIMA personnel and such other personnel as may be mutually agreed between participating agencies. The Program Office shall be directed by the NTA Program Manager.

b. The Program Office shall perform the following functions:

(1) Develop and execute an NTA Program that benefits the Services, the Defense agencies, the Intelligence agencies, and other Federal agencies;

(2) Provide direction and administration of the NTA Program, in conjunction with responsible contracting officers (CO) and contracting officer representatives (COR);

(3) Provide guidance to government partners regarding their responsibilities in executing NTA projects;

(4) Execute processes and procedures that facilitate use of the NTA by requesting organizations;

(5) Seek legal, technical, and contracting guidance when appropriate;

(6) Account for and report on the NTA Program as required; and

(7) Serve as Executive Secretariat for the NEB.

**3. NTA Executive Board:** The NEB shall provide executive level guidance to the NTA Program.

a. Specifically, the NEB shall:

(1) Participate in defining the NTA Program goals;

(2) Identify areas of mutual interest and opportunities for collaboration within the NTA Program;

(3) Participate in identifying strategies for the NTA Program, funding sources, and other resources, to include government technical experts (government Principal

Investigators) from NEB member organizations;

(4) Participate in the development and approval process of the NTA Program Plan; and

(5) Participate in the review of NTA deliverables.

b. Chairman, NEB. The Director, Research and Technology Office, NIMA shall serve as Chairman of the NEB. In the absence of the Director, Research and Technology Office, the NIMA representative to the NEB shall serve as Chairman, NEB.

c. NEB Membership. Organizations sponsoring an NTA activity are members of the NEB. Directors of NTA Laboratories are members of the NEB. Organizations that are not sponsoring an NTA activity may request and be granted NEB membership so long as the membership is consistent with the NTA mission and purpose. The Chairman, NEB will review and approve such requests. The Chairman, NEB may also approve such temporary membership as he determines in the best interest of the NTA.

d. Meetings, Agenda, Minutes, and Support.

(1) The NEB shall have at least two regularly scheduled meetings each year. One meeting shall include a report to the D/NIMA in his role as Executive Agent.

(2) The Chairman, NEB may call such other meetings as are deemed necessary to address NEB issues and concerns.

(3) The Executive Secretariat shall prepare and distribute the proposed NEB agenda at least 2 weeks before the next scheduled board meeting.

(4) The Executive Secretariat shall prepare and distribute the minutes of the board meeting within 30 days of the meeting.

(5) The NTA Program Office shall serve as Executive Secretariat to the NEB and shall provide administrative support and assistance as may be required to facilitate the efficient and effective operation of the NEB.

**4. NTA Laboratories.** The role of the laboratory is to focus both the needs of the government and the capabilities of industry to solve the critical problems in the government. The

NTA Laboratories shall:

- a. Provide a lead organization that has the people, facilities, and expertise to make significant impact on the government's technology needs.
- b. Designate a Laboratory Director who will be the principal point of contact for the laboratory and who will be a NEB member.
- c. Establish partnerships that ensure access to industry and academic leaders to achieve "best of class" solutions.
- d. Maintain awareness of state of the art technologies and market status.

### **III. NTA Program Execution**

**1. NTA Sponsored Activities.** The NTA will accomplish its mission objectives through an NTA Activity. An NTA Activity will be designated and approved by the NTA Program Manager and is accomplished through one of the NTA acquisition methodologies set forth in paragraph 4.

**2. Project Activity Candidates.** Project activities conducted through the NTA shall emphasize basic and applied research. NTA project activities may include advanced technology development for proof-of-principle prototype demonstrations. Candidate NTA activities should consider: a) leap-ahead technologies, b) return on investment for government and industry, and c) commercialization viability.

**3. NTA Program Build.** The NTA will follow a program build process that includes the following steps:

- a. Assess and identify government technology needs;
- b. Canvas commercial technology to determine if solutions are already available;
- c. Determine opportunities to leverage commercially available technology (i.e., research and development, influencing commercial development, etc.);
- d. Execute an NTA research project; and
- e. Develop a plan for the insertion of successful

technology developments. The plan shall include life-cycle analysis.

**4. NTA Acquisition Methodologies.** NTA activities will be conducted under the full range of flexible acquisition and acquisition related statutory and regulatory authorities available to NIMA. Preference will be given to the use of flexible, commercially compatible arrangements that will facilitate the accomplishment of rapid technology proof-of-concept or insertion. To facilitate accomplishment of this goal, the NTA Program Office shall establish such standing commercial relationships as deemed necessary or appropriate. Upon request, the Executive Agent may approve the execution of an NTA activity utilizing a contractual vehicle that is not established by the NTA Program Office.

**5. Funding of NTA Program Office Activities.**

a. NTA Program Office activities may receive funding from:

(1) The NIMA Budget. The funds appropriated in the NIMA Budget for NTA activities;

(2) Other Agency Budgets. The funds appropriated in other agency budgets for NTA activities; and

(3) Non-NTA Appropriated Funds. Funds not specifically appropriated to the NTA may be used on NTA activities.

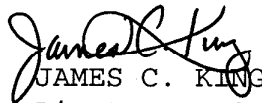
b. Participants in NTA activities agree to provide mutual visibility regarding expenditures for NTA activities conducted by the program office or by delegation.

c. The NTA Program Office shall establish the procedures and processes necessary to facilitate and expedite the efficient and effective use of, and accounting for, NTA funding.

**IV. NTA Representational Activities.** Use of the terms and logos of the NTA and its laboratories (i.e., NML, NIDL, NCAT) must be approved by the NTA Program Office. Attributions to or representations on behalf of the NTA and its laboratories must be approved by the NTA Program Office, with appropriate legal counsel. This limitation is not intended to restrict the ability of any commercial enterprise, under a contract or arrangement with the NTA, to identify or market their commercial

goods or services in their own name, if not otherwise restricted by contract or security limitations.

**V. Review, Amendment, and Termination.** This Charter shall take effect when signed by D/NIMA, the NTA Executive Agent. The Executive Agent shall review this Charter periodically and amend it as required. Amendments to this Charter will be coordinated with the NEB and approved by the Executive Agent. This Charter may be terminated by the Executive Agent by written notice to the NEB.

  
JAMES C. KING

Lieutenant General, USA